

Accelerating Learning with Workplace Math Skills

Comparing how Microsoft Math Assistant* and Google Docs* support the development of accessible math skills.

Objective

The goal of this paper is to assess the built-in equation editing and accessibility features of Microsoft Math Assistant* and Google Docs* including the Google Chrome* extension Equatio* (e.g., the Chromebook* solution).

Key Findings

1. Microsoft solutions, such as Math Assistant, provide students with multiple methods to write and solve equations, and also offers Immersive Reader for accessibility features like equation read aloud.
2. Google Docs equation editor offers only typing to write equations and has no built-in accessibility or explanations for mathematical concepts.
3. Third-party extension Equatio requires access to students' personally identifiable information to install and use inside of Google Docs to provide multiple means of writing equations as well as equation read aloud.
4. Both Math Assistant and Equatio allow students to use a device's touchscreen to write equations and offer equation read aloud in English. Additionally, Math Assistant has equation read aloud in a total of 71 languages or dialects¹.
5. With features like step-by-step explanations and practice quiz generation, Math Assistant provides students with the tools that they need to access, understand, and self-direct their learning to facilitate mastery of important math skills.

Conclusion

As schools develop strategies to close pandemic learning gaps, it is becoming more important that students have the strategies, resources, and tools that they need to master the content and mindsets required to contribute in the international STEM workforce.

When comparing tools for accessibility and helping students gain specific math skills, Math Assistant provides a superior experience than the equivalent experiences in Google Docs.



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